

Serial No. 10/522,475
Attorney Docket No. 2003P02452WOUS

REMARKS

Claim 11 has been canceled. Claims 12-16, 18, 20 have been amended. Claims 21 and 22 have been added. Thus claims 12-22 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Request for Allowance of Claims 12, 16, 28 and 20:

In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 12, 16, 18 and 20 contained patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12, 16, 18 and 20 have been rewritten in such manner.

In view of the amendments to claims 12, 16, 18, and 20, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12, 16, 18, and 20 are in condition for allowance as well as claims 13, 14, 15, 17, and 19 which depend thereon.

New Claims:

New claims 21 and 22 further define the scope of the invention. New claim 21 depends on allowable claim 16 and new claim 22 depends on allowable claim 18. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21 and 22 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references and prior art made of record. Applicant thus respectfully requests allowance of claims 21 and 22.

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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1/5/06

By: 

John P. Musone
Registration No. 44,961
(407) 736-6449

Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830